

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 1-4, 6-8, 10 and 13 as follows:

Al
B1

1. (Amended) A process for producing an intermetallic compound-based composite material comprising a reinforcing material and an intermetallic compound, comprising the steps of: mixing a metal powder with a reinforcing material to obtain a mixed powder, filling the mixed powder into a vessel, placing Al on an upper side of the mixed powder filled into the vessel, and impregnating the mixed powder with an Al melt, wherein a spontaneous combustion reaction between the metal powder and the Al melt converts the Al melt into an aluminide intermetallic compound, and the Al melt and the metal powder are used respectively in such amounts that a mass ratio of a remaining Al after the spontaneous combustion reaction to the intermetallic compound-based composite material is within a range from 0:10 to 3:7.

2. (Amended) A process for producing an intermetallic compound-based composite material comprising a reinforcing material and an intermetallic compound according to claim 1, wherein Ti powder comprises said metal powder, and Ti powder is mixed with Al in a relative mass ratio of 1:0.34 to 1:0.57, with the mass of Al being 1.0.

3. (Amended) A process for producing an intermetallic compound-based composite material comprising a reinforcing material and an intermetallic compound according to claim 1, wherein Ni powder comprises said metal powder, and Ni powder is mixed with Al in a relative mass ratio of 1:0.47 to 1:0.72, with the mass of Al being 1.0.

A1
Contd.

4. (Amended) A process for producing an intermetallic compound-based composite material comprising a reinforcing material and an intermetallic compound according to claim 1, wherein Nb powder comprises said metal powder, and Nb powder is mixed with Al in a relative mass ratio of 1:0.75 to 1:1.13, with the mass of Al being 1.0.

A2

6. (Amended) A process for producing an intermetallic compound-based composite material comprising a reinforcing material and an intermetallic compound according to claim 5, wherein Ti powder comprises said metal powder and is mixed with Al in a relative mass ratio of 1:0.57 to 1:6.14, with the mass of Al being 1.0.

7. (Amended) A process for producing an intermetallic compound-based composite material comprising a reinforcing material and an intermetallic compound according to claim 5, wherein Ni powder comprises said metal powder and is mixed with Al in a relative mass ratio of 1:0.72 to 1:7.20, with the mass of Al being 1.0.

8. (Amended) A process for producing an intermetallic compound-based composite material comprising a reinforcing material and an intermetallic compound according to claim 5, wherein Nb powder comprises said metal powder and is mixed with Al in a relative mass ratio of 1:1.13 to 1:12.16, with the mass of Al being 1.0.

A3

10. (Amended) A process for producing an intermetallic compound-based composite material according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcing material is an inorganic material having a shape selected from the group consisting of fibrous shapes, particulate shapes and whisker shapes.

13. (Amended) A process for producing an intermetallic compound-based composite material comprising a reinforcing material and an intermetallic compound, comprising the steps of: mixing a metal powder and an oxide powder reducible by Al with a reinforcing material to obtain a mixed powder, filling the mixed powder into a vessel, placing Al on an upper side of the mixed powder filled into the vessel, and impregnating the mixed powder with an Al melt, wherein a spontaneous combustion reaction between the metal powder and the Al melt converts the Al melt into an aluminide intermetallic compound, and the Al, the metal powder and the oxide powder are used respectively in such amounts that a mass ratio of a remaining Al after the spontaneous combustion reaction to the intermetallic compound-based composite material is within a range from 0:10 to 3:7.